

**REMARKS**

This application is being filed concurrently with the entry of the National Stage (Chapter I) of International Application No. PCT/GB2003/005377 which claims the priority of Great Britain Patent Application No. 0229352.0 under 35 USC 119.

This Preliminary Amendment was considered when calculating the filing fee. Accordingly, the total number of claims specified on the Transmittal Letter is 16 and the number of independent claims is 2.

Applicant has amended claims 1-10 primarily to eliminate any multiple dependencies and to use "the" instead of "said." Applicant has also added new claims 11-16.

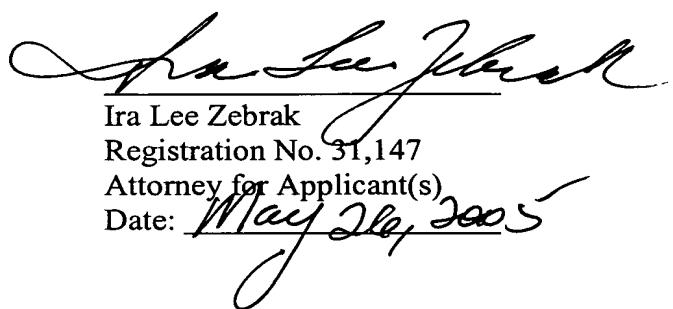
Applicant has further amended claims 3-4 to claim a "molecular drag pumping mechanism." Support for amended claims 3-4 is on page 4 lines 10-12, page 9 lines 22-23 and Figure 1 of the Specification as filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced.

Applicant has also amended claims 4-5 to claim a "Holweck pumping mechanism." Support for amended claims 4-5 is on page 8 lines 13-16 of the Specification as filed. Thus, no new matter has been introduced.

It is not believed at this time that any additional fee is due. As a precaution, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 02-2865 any additional fee required by this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

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